



*Our Mission...
To promote the preservation
and growth of the outdoor amusement industry
through leadership, advocacy and education.*

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Mary Chris Smith

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directors

Michael Wood-2015

Chris Lopez-2014

Mike Featherston-2013

Jeanne McDonagh-2012

Bill Johnson-2011

Dominic Vivona, Jr.-2010

Wayne McCary-2009

Andy Schoendienst-2008

John Hanschen-2007

Guy Leavitt-2006

Ron Burbach-2005

Don Deggeller-2004

James E. Strates-2003

*Jackie Swika-2002

Danny Huston-2001

Jeff Blomness-2000

Sam Johnston-1999

Buddy Merten-1998

*Richard Janas-1997

Jean Clair-1996

James Murphy-1995

Dominic Vivona-1994

*Bill Dillard, Sr.-1993

Tom Atkins-1992

*Red Wood-1991

*Billy Burr-1990

*Bob Coleman, Sr.-1989

*Milt F. Kaufman-1988

*Andy Andersen-1987

*John Vivona-1986

*Mike Farino-1985

James H. Drew, III-1984

Gerald L. Murphy-1983

*John A. Campi-1982

*Buster L. Brown-1981

*Hub Luehrs-1980

*Lloyd J. Hilligoss-1979

*Hal F. Eifort-1978

*Alfred H. Kunz-1977

*P.E. Reithoffer, Jr.-1976

*Bernard P. Thomas-1975

E. James Strates-1974

*Rod Link-1973

*C.J. Sedlmayr-1972

*John Portemont-1971

*William T. Collins-1966-70

*W.G. Wade-1965

trustees

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION AT OABA'S 53RD ANNUAL MEETING IN TAMPA, FL

The OABA's Board of Directors at its 53rd Annual Meeting paid tribute and gave recognition to one of the great icons in the mobile amusement industry, Marilyn Portemont, with its first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award, in Tampa, Florida.

Marilyn is an icon in the carnival industry who, along with her deceased husband, Johnny, owned and operated Johnny's United Shows, operating in the southeastern states. Her husband was the third OABA president in 1971 and he was inducted into the OABA's Hall of Fame in 2003 posthumously with Marilyn accepting his recognition.

A great showman in her own right, she was honored by the Showman's League of America as the first lady inducted into their Hall of Honor. Marilyn has been involved in and recognized by many social and fraternal organizations, including Miami Showmen's, Ladies Auxiliary of SLA, World-Wide Show Women's Past President's Club, IISA, and others.

OABA Second Vice Chair Debbie Powers honored Marilyn by stating: "I can't think of anyone more deserving of a lifetime of achievement than Marilyn. She is an icon who has integrity, respect, and every fiber of her body loves this wonderful industry and the many friends and fun times she's experienced." Powers presented Marilyn with a beautiful diamond pendant in recognition of this honor in front of some 400 members at the Sheraton Hotel on February 9.

Accepting this recognition, she regretted not seeing her good friend Tom Powell, as she co-chaired the Miami Club's "Golden 100" in 1997 honoring Tom Powell as "Showmen of the Year." She was an inspiration to many in attendance recalling the many show people, good friends and families that built and make up this industry with generations to come.

In typical showmanship and fashion, Marilyn wore a beautifully-embroidered coat displaying the original founding families who organized the OABA in 1965 at the Sherman House in Chicago. Two founding families – the Strates' and the Vivona's – were on hand to celebrate and congratulate this wonderful person.

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